

One in four men admits driving above the drink limit after parties

By Kenneth Gosling
A pre-Christmas survey of almost 1,000 drivers has shown that nearly a quarter of the men questioned would drive home from a party knowing they were over the alcohol limit.

PC tells sex bias inquiry of warning

A police officer was given a warning that he would "lose out" if he continued to support a woman colleague in a sexual discrimination claim against the Metropolitan Police.

Divorced wives of clergy 'ostracized'

By David Cross
Many divorced wives of clergy still feel abhorred by the Church of England, in spite of official concern about their plight.

Table with 2 columns: Time since a divorced was asked by a church official about her welfare, and percentage. Rows include: Less than 1 year (80%), 1-2 years (12%), 2-5 years (7%), 5-10 years (1%), 10+ years (1%).

Hope denies taking fee for charity golf

Bob Hope, the comedian, has denied taking fees to appear at the charity golf tournament which bears his name.

Horse stunt fall removed from new Bond film

The RSPCA has persuaded Warner Brothers, the makers of the new James Bond film Never Say Never Again, to cut one of the most dramatic scenes showing a horse plunging 40 feet into the sea.

Protest over driver's 9-month sentence

A driver who has twice been banned for drinking and driving was jailed for nine months for causing the death of a boy aged 14 by reckless driving.



Pilgrim's progress: Mgr James Horan, a master of politics. (Photograph: Terry Fincher).

Knock airport A priest's dream or folly

By Richard Ford
The view from the 6,000ft runway of Ireland's proposed fourth international airport, perched 650ft above the sea on a boggy plateau, is awe-inspiring.

with the project that was being dismissed privately as "sheer lunacy".
But with political stability, Dr FitzGerald has decided no more money should be spent.



£250,000 damages for mother

A couple's marriage was ruined after a Mrs Lynn Webb suffered "catastrophic" brain damage during a 10-minute sterilization operation.

NCE upon a time, a young girl called Little Red Riding-Hood set off alone through the Great Wood to visit her grandmother.

Being a kindly girl, she took along with her a basket full of good things including a bottle of Croft Particular, a light, crisp sherry that was the old lady's, special favourite.

"Oh, Grandma!", she cried. "What big eyes you have!" "All the better to see you with", replied the Wolf, who wasn't actually looking at Little Red Riding-Hood, but at the bottle of Croft Particular in her basket.

"And what a big mouth you have!", cried Red Riding-Hood. "All the better for drinking with", said the Wolf, taking an appreciative slurp and licking his lips.



Slightly lighter, slightly less traditional. To be enjoyed slightly more often.



PC Trevor Atfield and his former car patrol partner WPC Wendy de Launay in London yesterday.



Gordon Stratton, aged 24, who had been drinking before he knocked down the boy, Timothy Proctor, was fined and banned in 1979 for driving with excess alcohol.

Minister declines to intervene in Scott Lithgow

SHIPBUILDING

The record of the British Shipbuilding yard of Scott Lithgow on Aberdeen...

strated that the rig could be delivered by February 1984...



Mr. Millan: Jobs can be saved

Millan: Jobs can be saved... The minister should accept his own responsibility...

Noraid money going to those who pursue violence

TERRORISM

Mr Thatcher coupled a condemnation of financial support for Noraid...

occasion in the death of one American citizen and the injury of others...

these matters to the maximum extent. I am also grateful for what the American Ambassador said...

Child sex case judge criticized by MPs

PM's QUESTIONS

Legislation is to be introduced to allow the Court of Appeal to consider sentences alleged to be too lenient...

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages...

Tough targets set for some Welsh councils: low rate rises forecast

WALES

Expenditure targets set for Welsh local authorities for 1984-85 are tough...

amount of grant withheld from an authority is directly related to its own expenditure...

expenditure. Some progress has been made on this front but there is still some way to go...

Research into exam results

EDUCATION

The Cox and Marks report on standards in English Schools...

is often argued between professional researchers. I regret that the officials who...

Educational needs of unemployed

Mr Duan: We have made this known from time to time. There may be some special reasons for keeping very small schools open...

jobs, particularly since the qualification of three months unemployment has been removed...

Government against a new council

The Government has decided not to set up a national development council to promote future developments in adult continuing education...



Mr. Jones: Bureaucratic dictatorship

Block grant will be distributed in accordance with the grant related expenditure formulae agreed by the Welsh local authority associations...

Abuses by professional fund raisers

The principle of charitable giving was too important in the community to be besmirched by the activities of a few reckless or dishonest people...

£1 makes a hole in the pocket

HOUSE OF LORDS

The £1 coin was now being called 'a nuisance'. The need for a coin replacement was a matter for the House of Lords...

Procedure for closing schools unchanged

Mr Robert Duan, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, asked if his department would publish guidelines for use when closure of village schools were proposed...

Mr Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State, said that it will be a useful option for those concerned while they are seeking...

Who'll be home for Christmas? What better way of bringing Christmas spirit into your home than a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label? Enjoy with family and friends the taste of the world's most distinctive Scotch Whisky. Have a very Merry Christmas. Johnnie Walker Red Label. Recognised everywhere.

Genetic engineering: 3

Super mice lead the field

Outsize mice scampering around a veterinary research laboratory in the United States are the most striking demonstration so far of the potential of genetic engineering to transform mammals, including humans.

Genetic manipulation of higher animals and plants is perhaps seven or eight years behind the research on simple single-cell bacteria, described in the first article of this series.

view, similar experiments could be performed on human eggs, but they would be morally unacceptable, given all the uncertainties. The potential for transforming farm animals is immense, however, and breeders of pigs, sheep, cattle and poultry are rushing to exploit genetic engineering.

Today, whatever the weather, without added pesticides or fertilizer. A bacterial gene for resistance to an antibiotic worked in petunia cells, the first success with foreign DNA in plant cells.

But the "giant mice" experiment, a collaborative effort by Dr Richard Palmiter, of the University of Washington in Seattle, and Dr Ralph Brinster, of the University of Pennsylvania, shows what can be achieved with our present imperfect understanding.

Although the most important traits in domestic animals, such as fertility, are affected by a large number of unknown genes, the giant mice experiment showed what impact a single gene could have on the complex process of growth.

Progress has been most rapid in broad-leaved plants, such as tobacco and petunia, for two important reasons. First, scientists have found a natural carrier, called the Ti plasmid, which readily inserts foreign DNA into their cells.

Some of the resulting baby mice grew to twice normal size, stimulated by high levels of the hormone and, most significantly, they passed the genes on to their own offspring.

Where particular proteins are important for an agricultural product, such as casein in milk and keratin in wool, improvement through genetic engineering should not be difficult.

However, plant scientists such as Dr John Ingle, who heads the Agricultural Research Council's genetic engineering programme, report rapid progress. Genetic manipulation of any plant will soon be possible.

Direct micro-injection of DNA is a hit-or-miss method of transforming mammalian eggs; fewer than half of Dr Brinster's mice successfully incorporated the genes, and other laboratories have had less success.

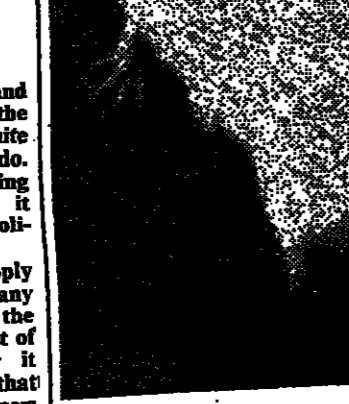
But plants contribute more than animals to world food supplies, and an even bigger agricultural research effort is devoted to their genetic manipulation. This year, plant engineers have passed several milestones on the road to an arable paradise of nutritious crops growing faster than

The most glamorous ambition of plant engineering is to make all crops take their own nitrogen from the air, as clover and beans already do, with the help of bacteria living in their roots. One of the greatest constraints on world food production would disappear if farmers no longer had to spend millions on nitrogen fertilizers.

From a technical point of view, the transfer of genes to plants is all that is needed. The main problem is transferring them to plants in such a way that the chemical process works only when oxygen is excluded.

Even less far-fetched is genetic engineering of humans, the most exciting and emotive of all applications. Many researchers expect serious clinical trials to begin within five to ten years, treating inherited diseases by correcting a faulty gene or inserting a good new gene.

Many people react strongly against the idea of tampering with the genetic make-up of humanity as it has evolved. Few, however, could object to "phenotypic" therapy with the aim of curing a disease by changing the genes in, for example, blood cells, for the lifetime of an individual.



The bigger mouse was produced with growth hormones.



Concluded

Challenge on new police powers fails

Opposition attempts to provide more safeguards against controversial police powers of search and seizure in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill were defeated yesterday.

The powers were relevant to police action against terrorism, Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said during the Bill's committee stage in the Commons.

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, added there was a danger that a serious extension of police powers would be rubber-stamped if entry and search of premises could be authorized by a magistrate.

The Opposition felt that power to grant a search warrant should be held by a circuit judge who would have experience and independence of mind and be able to see that the police were not launching a fishing expedition.

Whitehouse wins extremist libel damages

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, won substantial libel damages and costs in the High Court yesterday for allegations that she was a dangerous extremist.

A High Court judge stepped into a legal dispute yesterday over who pays for the curse of King Tutankhamun. HTV Ltd, which made the £1,500,000 film The Curse of King Tut's Tomb is claiming damages of more than £245,000 from insurers after a freak accident during filming in Luxor, Egypt, in December, 1979.

Mr Hurd said the Government agreed that where confidential material was involved, the hearing for the granting of a search warrant should be at judicial level. But where it was not, magistrates should be empowered to issue the warrant.

Lloyds liable on 'Curse of King Tut' accident

The newspaper had not sought to suggest there was any truth in the passage, and accepted that its publication was a serious error, Mr Smyth said.

Whitehouse wins extremist libel damages

The signals have remained uncertain. During the election there was no indication that public expenditure would have to be reduced.

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Heat and frost: Fireman fighting a blaze in Justice, Illinois, found ice and freezing winds an additional hazard.

Arctic freeze brings chaos to Mid West

New York (AP) - America's heartland yesterday suffered its fourth consecutive day of record-breaking cold which has left at least 22 people dead. A frigid wind from the Arctic left cars immobilized, pipes burst and schools closed.

The Platte River froze in Nebraska and ice floes backed up for five miles. Ice burst water mains as far south as Fort Worth, Texas. A bus driver in Seattle collapsed and died while trying to free his bus from the snow by throwing sand under it.

Minnesota, of -41°C. Then Harrison, Wisconsin, reported -44°C. The Arctic air mass is expected to drift slowly east during the next few days, giving some relief to the Midwest but bringing freezing weather to the East, according to Mr Harry Gordon, a meteorologist at the National Severe Storms Forecast centre in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 22 deaths included traffic casualties on slippery roads in Idaho, Missouri and Utah, carbon monoxide poisonings in Oklahoma and exposure

Japan's poll gloom turns to relief

From Richard Hanson Tokyo

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday began putting itself back together after tumbling dangerously near to disaster in Sunday's general election.

Testing time for Mrs Gandhi

By-elections in northern India

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and her Congress (I) Party have set themselves a big test for this Friday. They have arranged a series of by-elections to the Lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha, and to legislative assemblies in five states.

The five states are all in the north of India, and the test is plainly intended to assess the ruling party's strength in the so-called Hindi belt of the Ganges plains. This is where the main strength of Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party has lain, and here she must win convincingly in any general election she is to hold on to power securely.

The by-elections will tell her whether her standing has been affected by the recent scandal over adulteration of imported cooking oil with beef dripping. Hindus all over the country, who revere the cow as a sacred animal, now find they have committed the unpardonable sin of ingesting beef fat - albeit unwittingly - as a result, they feel of government laxity in granting import licences.

Investors appeared reassured that the party would continue its rule, unbroken since 1955. The popular Miki Dow performance kept 143.76 points to a new record high of 9,627.98 after dropping sharply when the party's majority seemed in doubt on Monday morning. The yen also gained against the dollar - up 1.3 to 235.05.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, was officially able to add eight successful conservative independent candidates to the party roster, thus regaining a thin simple majority, with 258 seats in the 511-member Lower House, which is expected to convene to elect the Prime Minister early next week. The party won only 250 seats, an unexpected setback which had briefly knocked the wind out of the equity and exchange markets a day earlier.

Mr Nakasone, however, called a tough few days. Yesterday, he called a Cabinet meeting in which he reportedly said he was sorry for the result. Three ministers - defence, transport and education - were defeated on Sunday.

At stake are three Lok Sabha seats - in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana - and 11 assembly seats in those three, plus West Bengal and Rajasthan. Vacant seats in the south have been ignored for the exercise, even though there are 13 Lok Sabha seats and 19 assembly seats vacant throughout the country.

Mr Hurd said the Government agreed that where confidential material was involved, the hearing for the granting of a search warrant should be at judicial level. But where it was not, magistrates should be empowered to issue the warrant.

For the first time since the communists won the war in 1975, American troops today are making an on-the-ground search for missing US servicemen in Indo-China. They are investigating a jungle site near Pakse, in southern Laos where an American transport aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire 11 years ago, killing 16 Air Force men. The remains of 13 were never recovered.

Communist authorities have never before permitted the Americans to search for 2,500 men still unaccounted for. The gesture by Laos, which said that it had changed its policy for humanitarian reasons could influence future relations between Washington and communist Indo-China.

An official American spokesman in Bangkok said that his Government was encouraged by the attitude of the Laotians. The Americans had been trying unsuccessfully for years to enter Laos and Vietnam to seek the remains of missing Americans.

Americans search for their dead in Laos

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

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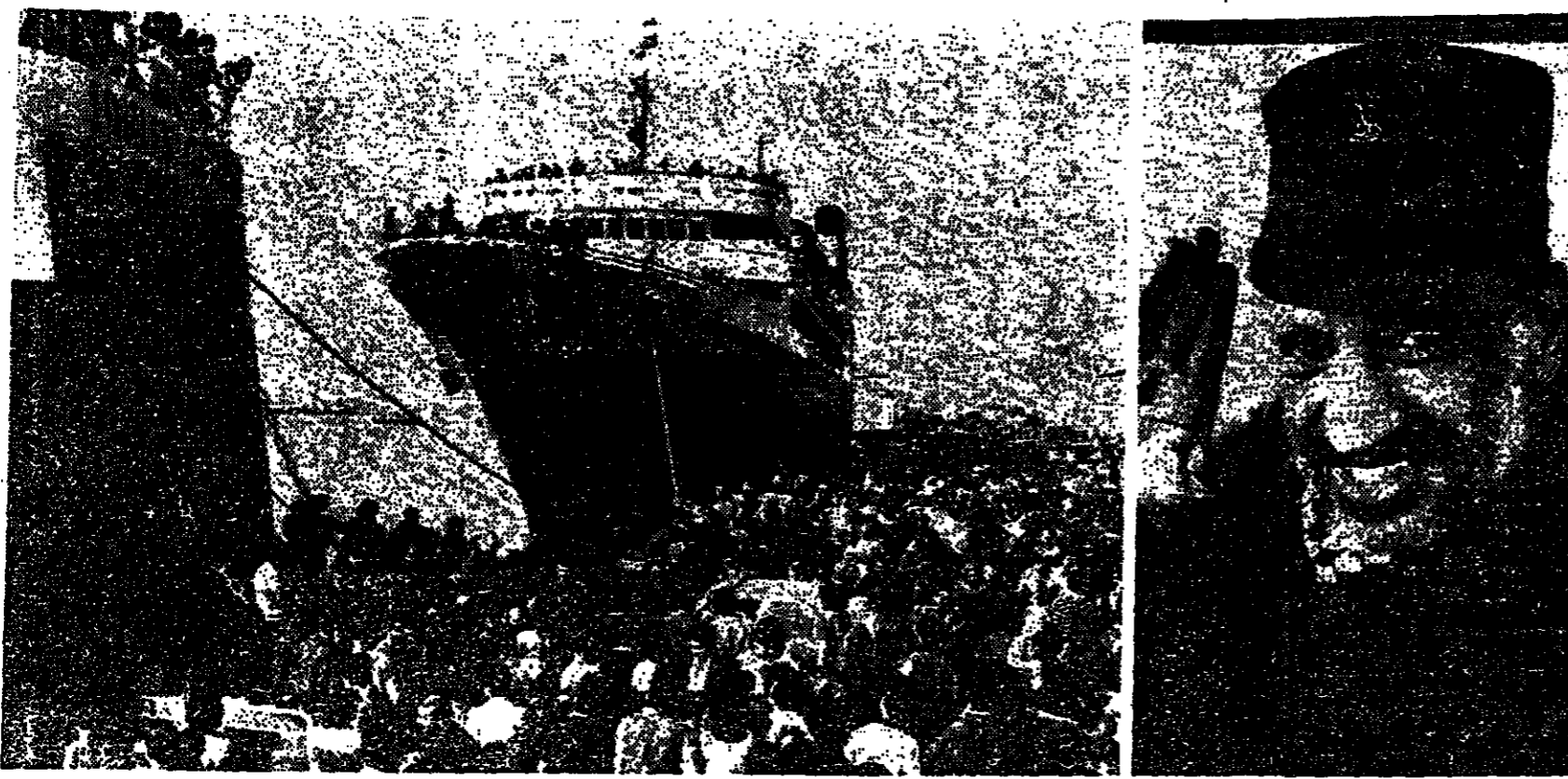
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The question of the missing Americans has been a serious impediment to the normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam, and, therefore, US officials regard this new concession as a breakthrough which could lead to American recognition of Vietnam.

Advertisement for 'Save the Children' featuring a drawing of a child and text: 'Why SPEND £25 adopting a DEAD DOLL when you could help a REAL CHILD'. Includes contact information for The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 321218, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'sex', 'udged', 'VPs', 'IONS', 'makes a', 'ole in the', 'pocket', 'mas'.

A homeless people in retreat, a leader with nowhere to lead them



Odyssey to nowhere: Yasser Arafat, defiantly cheerful as he and his ragged army quit the scene of their last defeat.

Arafat sails away with mythical victory

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

They were the same victory signs, the same bursts of gunfire, in many cases the same faces. We had seen them all before and they were again yesterday in another expensive production of the same old epic.

After humiliating defeat, Mr Yasser Arafat turns disgraced into mythical victory, persuading his 4,000 men that they are on their way to Palestine and sailing off into the sunset on a dreamboat appropriately named *Odysseus*.

betrayed them. It was both pathetic and demeaning, an image of a homeless people in retreat and a leader with nowhere to lead them.

hand in the victory salute, balanced an anti-tank rocket launcher on his shoulder, opened his mouth to protect his ears from the air pressure and loosed off a missile across the heads of the thousands around him.

worthless and now we are free to do what we want," one of them said, for Tripoli's agony is far from ended.

Bethlehem attacks feared

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than a week before the traditional Christmas Eve celebrations in Israeli-occupied Bethlehem, the new campaign of grenade attacks against religious targets in and around Jerusalem was intensified yesterday.

The first of yesterday's blasts occurred before dawn near a mosque on the outskirts and badly injured the muezzin, who had been on his way to call the faithful to dawn prayers.

Orthodox monastery in Bethlehem, a hillside village where tradition has it that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Military errors blamed for Marines massacre

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A congressional report has accused the entire US military chain of command in Beirut of "very serious errors in judgment" that led to the death of 241 American Marines in a bomb attack on October 23.

Beirut. Shortly before the massacre, congress authorized the President to keep troops there for another 18 months.

EEC faces cheese-paring if money is to last

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission is being forced into a drastic cheese-paring exercise in an attempt to find enough money to last the EEC throughout next year.

It also means that the only quick and certain way in which Britain's frozen £457m rebate - which is included in the 1984 budget - can be released is for there to be rapid agreement on Community reforms.

Retirement at 59 for West Germans

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

West German workers will be able to retire at 59 under a Government plan announced yesterday, to find jobs for younger people and reduce unemployment of more than two million.

Lambsdorff works on in Cabinet

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, who has been charged with corruption, is to remain in office until further notice.

Pretoria-Maputo deal may leave ANC isolated

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A South African delegation, led by Mr Pik Botha, the Foreign Minister, yesterday held talks with senior Mozambique ministers in Swaziland.

que cracking down on ANC use of the country as a sanctuary in return for a cessation of South African military aid to insurgents opposed to the Maputo Government.

Mozambique, which subscribes to a broadly Marxist ideology, has been the target of two armed attacks this year by South Africa, which claimed they were aimed at buildings occupied by African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas.

Lesotho has promised to supply Pretoria with more information about a plot allegedly being hatched in South Africa for the overthrow of the tiny kingdom's government by a group of mercenaries operating under instructions from an unnamed foreign power.

Swiss angry at action of Italian agents

Rome (Reuters) - Switzerland has protested officially to Italy against what it terms repeated violation of Swiss sovereignty by Italian secret agents.

Peruvian police general shot

General Carlos Herrera, a senior officer of the Peruvian plainclothes police, was shot dead by four men in Lima yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

Abortion doctor must pay up

Bonn - A doctor who carries out an unsuccessful abortion must pay compensation for the child and maintenance for the mother if negligence can be proved, a West German appeal court ruled yesterday.

Murdoch buys

Chicago (Reuters) - Field Enterprises said yesterday it has signed a final agreement to sell the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the country's seventh largest-selling daily newspaper, to Mr Rupert Murdoch, for \$90m (£64m) cash.

Washington cuts aid to Zimbabwe

From Our Correspondent, Washington

Washington plans to cut economic aid to Zimbabwe by nearly half, to \$40m (£26m) in the 1984 fiscal year which could further strain their relations.

African 14 scold West for neglect

Harare (AP) - A two-day summit on African trade ended here yesterday with a swipe at developed countries and international institutions for dwindling support to the Third World.

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Briefing for Thatcher on Kissinger mission

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Henry Kissinger will discuss his forthcoming report on Central America with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street today.

four countries which make up the group in Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela gathered here yesterday to discuss how their proposals could be put into practice.



The new West German Ambassador to Britain, Baron Ruediger von Weizsacker, aged 60, who takes up his post today. He served as Ambassador in Rome after representing Germany at the United Nations for seven years.

Ciskei ruling

Bisho, Ciskei (AFP) - The Supreme Court here has ruled that the Ciskei authorities should immediately bring Father Snaagalo Mkhathswa, Secretary-General of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' conference before the court. He was arrested seven weeks ago.

Church demand

East Berlin (Reuters) - The East German Protestant Church has demanded the release of two women pacifists arrested last week after meeting a member of the British Campaign for Nuclear Dismantment.

Drought appeal

Geneva (AP) - The International Red Cross, citing worsening drought conditions in Mauritania, has launched an international appeal for 17 million Swiss francs (£5.4m) in cash and kind.

Rwanda 'choice'

Kigali (AFP) - Major-General Juvenal Habyarimana was reelected President of Rwanda with more than 99 per cent of the vote in Monday's presidential election.

Sentences to stay

Seoul (AFP) - A Seoul Appeal Court has upheld the prison sentences imposed in August on six Chinese hijackers who forced a Chinese domestic airliner to South Korea in May.

Eating again

Brussels (Reuters) - University students on hunger strike in Brussels since November 22 in protest against a Bill to restrict immigration have ended their fast.

Pandora bounty

Brisbane (AFP) - A cannon and other artefacts have been recovered by divers from HMS Pandora, a British frigate wrecked in 1791 while carrying mutineers from HMS Bounty back to England for trial.

Arms found in Solidarity priest's flat

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A secret cache of explosives, ammunition, an illegal printing press and thousands of leaflets calling for demonstrations was discovered in the apartment of a radical pro-Solidarity priest in Warsaw, the Polish authorities disclosed yesterday.

parish priests, many of whom say that the church must more actively defend the suffering and persecuted.

Threnody for the aged carp of Copenhagen

Copenhagen (AP) - The beloved old carp at Denmark's aquarium, senile for weeks, finally has gone the way of all fish.

Ship where war ended returns to duty

After 29 years in mothballs the USS Missouri, the American battleship on whose decks the Japanese surrendered at the end of the Second World War, is to be returned to active duty.

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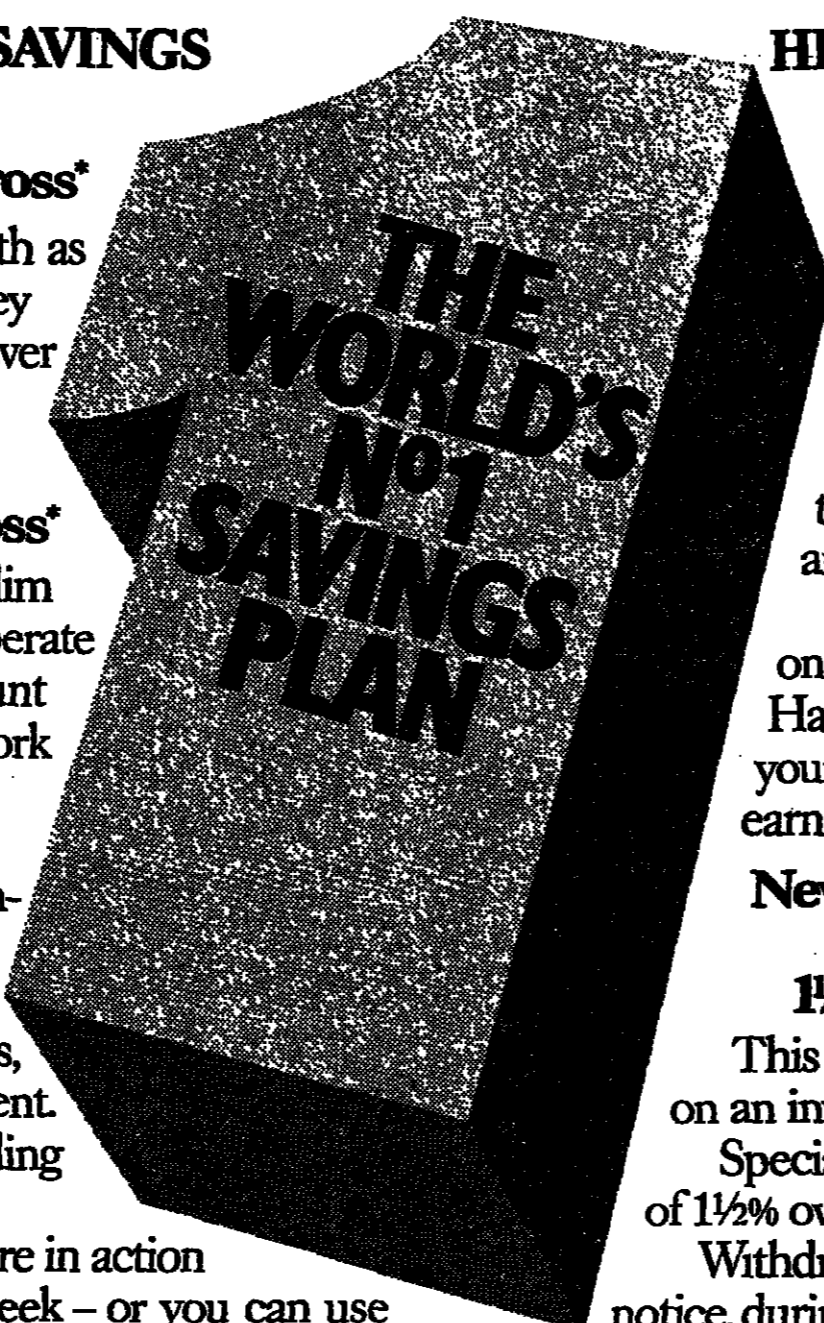
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SPECTRUM

Sweet silver song of the Lark



A sweet and gentle rural memoir is on the verge of becoming a moneyspinning exercise in merchandising.

Shirley Lowe charts the making of Lark Rise to Candleford into a bandwagon for everything from dolls and cosmetics to bedspreads



The rise and rise of Lark Rise: Top, designer Nicholas Thirkell, who has ways of making you read. Above left, the marketing team and, right, the book itself. Photographs by Suresh Karadia.

"Oh, Laura! What a dunce you are," Miss Holmes, the village schoolmistress used to say to nine-year-old Flora Thompson...

The hardback version of the book was published in 1939 and has been in print ever since. It went into paperback and sold 373,000 copies.

Next year, Lark Rise rolls on to become a major merchandising project worth millions of pounds to stores and to the manufacturers of sheets and stationery...

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 and lived with her parents and nine brothers and sisters (six of whom died in childhood) in the crowded end cottage of a hamlet called Juniper Hill in Oxfordshire...

Flora married John Thompson, a young post office clerk, when she was 24, because he despised her reading and writing as a waste of time...

She recorded a world of simple pleasures and pastimes; the children playing dancing games and peg-tops, the men working long hours in the fields for 10 shillings a week...

Michael Joseph published it in a faithful facsimile as The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady, the publishing world has been searching for an equally satisfactory money-maker.

Nile as well as some fine granny paintings from a grand house in Gloucestershire. Nevertheless, Anthony Cheetham thought it might be clever to approach the problem from the opposite direction: to get the best text possible and then illustrate it.

were swept away by the machine age? How do you commercialize an era?

The answer is in the presentation. "My brief was a difficult but exciting one," says Nicholas Thirkell. "It was 'create another Country Diary best-seller'."

He chose the tactile appeal of old-fashioned cloth for the cover, made the inside look a little like a cottager's scrapbook and, trying to think of an idea that symbolized the countryside and had a good graphic look for the bookshops...

The finished book is a visual treat and, looking at it, one might almost say, as indeed the Lark Rise Merchandise Company brochure does: "What could be more natural than that this masterpiece should form the centrepiece of an extensive range of quality products?"

Debenhams will launch Lark Rise in July, giving them a two-month lead on other retailers. Manufacturers are queuing up for the privilege of recreating furniture in harmony with the stone and thatch of Mrs Thompson's humble cottage...

This is only the beginning of the Lark Rise nostalgia industry. Next year Anthony Cheetham will be bringing out a series of children's books followed by a range of dolls...

The money side is complicated. Oxford University Press, Flora Thompson's original publishers, who hold the rights (Century have bought the abridged illustrated rights only), get 50p of every book sold this year and a percentage increase next.

Shirley Lowe is working on a companion volume to The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford. It is The Illustrated Cider with Rosie, so anyone who doesn't care to emulate the humble world of a poor Victorian hamlet should wait for a year or so when a mood may be created for living rather more prosperously...

Moreover... Miles Kingston

How to be an oracle

One of the hazards of the festive season is finding yourself talking to someone you don't like about something you can't understand - Uncle Harry, for instance, or electronics, or the America's Cup.

The Greenham Common Peace Women "Of course, Ronald Reagan thinks that all peace movements are a help to his enemy, so he has decided to discredit them."

The Booker Prize "I heard it from a friend who knows one of the judges very well that this year, and every year for all I know, they deliberately chose the book they liked most."

The Day After "No, I didn't actually see the film. I don't like old horror movies. Nor do I have this American taste of horrifying yourself. The Americans absolutely adore being scared, you know that why Soviet Russia is such a godsend. But they also have Scars of the Year, a new flavour of scare, like herpes one year, AIDS the next, and the destruction of Kansas the next."

Computers "Apparently this guy in a Scottish university did a survey on his home computer. He wanted to find out whether anyone, anywhere in Britain, had found a really valid and useful function for his home computer."

The NGA "Has it ever occurred to you that paper don't appear on big holidays, but that this doesn't give newspaper workers the day off, because they're working on the next day's paper?"

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 229)

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the start of words.

- ACROSS: 1 Livestock feed (6) 4 Idle talk (6) 7 Longest river (4) 8 Women's underwear (8) 9 Desertor (8) 12 Adult males (3) 15 Column base (6) 16 Emergence (6) 17 Type of reggae (3) 19 Arabic counting system (8) 24 Glacier fissure (8) 25 Cut short (4) 26 Killed in battle (6) 27 Roof window (6)

SOLUTION TO No 228: ACROSS: 1 Banza 5 Doff 8 Tramp 9 Tumbler 11 Delusion 13 Fain 15 Telephony 18 Rise 19 Schnapps 22 Macramé 23 Loose 24 Ally 25 Elbow

Bad taste and good timing

Liquid Sky, the latest international hit movie in the weirdness category, is about aliens from outer space who attach themselves to the bisexual world of New York's New Wave fashion/haircut scene...

very sad. It's a national characteristic. Liquid Sky, with its oriental sense of colour and display, is a celebration of his own freedom.



things. But nobody believes propaganda any more in Russia, nobody believes in this perfect future society. "But propaganda can still be powerful even when you don't believe it."

Duncan Fallowell

ARROW AIR advertisement featuring the slogan 'TAKE THE PLANE NON-STOP FLORIDA', 'WINTER WARMER FARE' from £299, and 'ARROW'S EXTRA VALUE PACKAGE' with details on flights and services.

كذلك من الأصل

WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Exploiting sadness

With Christmas nearly upon us, the senses are assailed by a rash of posters and appeals for help for the poor and needy. Each pathetic image jostles for priority. But is the cause sometimes damaged as much by the distorted stereotype as it is helped by the money raised?

The Down's Children's Association knows well the dilemma of whether or not to exploit the pathetic in trying to pluck money from the heart strings. As an organization representing parents, professionals and Down's people themselves, the advertising men's advice has been questioned. But it is a tragedy that as hard as we struggle to present these children positively, picturing them in loving families or carrying on normal, everyday activities, others use them in lonely or helpless poses to raise money.

The reason is clear. Down's children can be appealing and attractive, but at the same time are instantly recognizable by their "mongol" features. Sadly, with Down's Syndrome the commonest form of mental handicap, they have come to epitomise all mental handicap. But this is to forget that while some Down's children are indeed profoundly handicapped, the majority are not, and some have abilities in the near normal range.

None of this is conveyed in one of the award winning posters from the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. A pretty Down's girl stares out mournfully over the legend "Twenty children born on Christmas Day will always have a cross to bear". So successful was this that another poster used the same little girl accompanied by her mother. This time little Nina is smiling but the message is again negative, referring to her appearance in *Crossroads*: "You can switch off Nina's problems but her mother can't". We must however, commend Central Television's original decision, at the behest of Mencap, to write a mentally handicapped person into a peak-time soap opera in an effort to reduce prejudice and ignorance.

It is not only the money-seekers who use the face of Down's Syndrome. The DHSS took full-page colour advertisements to advertise for mental nurses. A nurse with a saintly expression has a young Down's person clutched adoringly to each bosom: "You have to be someone special to get this kind of welcome at work". Take this and the Mencap posters together and as a by-product you might get the message: "It's hell at home but bliss in an institution."

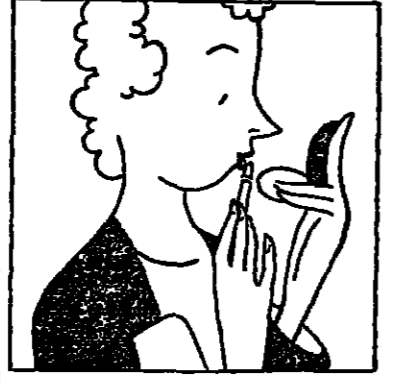
Clearly this runs counter to the policies of both organizations. Nowadays the majority of Down's children are loved and cherished by their own families, who are constantly surprised by their abilities, defying traditional medical opinion that their prospects are those of a cabbage. Down's families don't mind of advertising the need for help for the mentally handicapped, but let them also be the leaders of a new era of positive understanding.

Maggie Emslie

The author is Director of the Down's Children's Association

Because Sophie couldn't get back from work in time, I was asked to do Rachel's hair for her first ball. She came upstairs in her dressing gown and sat at the cluttered desk I use as a dressing table. Could I make it look... well, different, she said, pushing at the thick corn-coloured bob. Scarlett had come to help in the way only younger sisters can, standing tremendously close to, and keeping up a steady flow of soothing chatter.

I twiddle away with heated rollers, hair driers, water sprays and round brushes. "How is it going to look?" asked Scarlett, rattling a can of spray-on mousse vigorously. "I don't know," I reply, truthfully, as the rollers come out and the backcombing begins. Rachel has brought up some blue and black ribbons to match her dress: we twist and tie them through her curls and fix it all with quantities of hair spray.



"I'm supposed to be there at seven," she says politely, her eyes at the clock which shows 6.43pm. Blue mascara, just a touch, lavender eye shadow and some pink lipstick. I smudge the mascara. "You've smudged it," breathes Scarlett, an inch away from the offending mark.

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Bringing on the dancing curls

Quick smear of cleansing lotion, a final tweak here and pluck there. "If faut souffrir pour dire belle," I say. "She looks like Shirley Temple," mutters Scarlett and then, at the thunderclous form "... but I like Shirley Temple."

Rachel races downstairs to put on her dress and shoes, and gallops back up to show the final result. Slim as a reed in shimmering blue striped taffeta, blue spotted stockings, pale skin and clouds of gold curls, Rachel is transformed into a rare beauty. As she patters off to the car, we lean on the banisters and sigh and smile and shake our heads. I can remember the day she was born, Scarlett will be next, I suppose, if we can only pin her down.

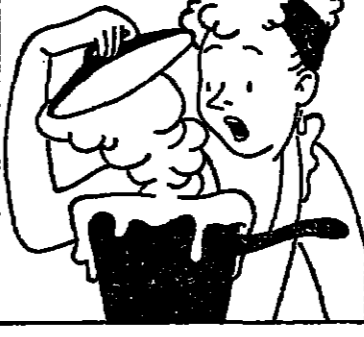


"This is my lunch" says a grinning lad, sitting on a crate of celery, munching a roll he has been up since 3.30 am. We adjourn to a special pub where Sam gives us some traditional refreshment: toasted cheese sandwiches and black coffee with a sensible measure of whisky therein. By the time we get home, we are warm and sleepy and not fit for anything much but smiling.

FIRST PERSON

David Hunt

I don't like being taken for a ride



In these days of self-help, independence and isolation, disabled people are doing more and more for themselves with the help of "aids". An aid is, basically, something that reaches parts other devices cannot reach. This can mean anything from elasticated laces for converting your shoes into slip-ons to a car with drive-on access for a wheelchair.

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Bringing on the dancing curls

stored in a gas to shame a stink bomb. How awful if someone were to pop open behind a frightful bore at a party and tip over, leaving him to explain away the deadly whiff.

I couldn't get a taxi so I reluctantly drove my car to the Lichfield lunch. Having arrived, the only course of action was to leave the machine safely but illegally parked. Inside the Tai-Pan, all was meeting and eating and laughter, outside it was the Denver Boot for the spivmobile. The saga involved buses and underground trains, long echoing subways, snarl buses and the inflated King Kong and a duration of several hours.

Coping with a telephone torment

Sarah Jane Checkland on the increasing menace of the obscene phone call - and how to combat it

The Englishman's castle is vulnerable in a number of ways, none more so than through that thin line of communication with the outside world, the telephone. It is bad enough just to be interrupted as you wallow in the bath. When the call is from one or other of the two telephone menaces, the salesman or the obscene caller, what a moment it can be.

We are in the midst of an obscene phone call boom. Official complaints to British Telecom from England, Scotland and Wales rose from about 80,000 in 1971 to 180,000 in 1980 (whereupon the comprehensive figures went silent because of BT's devolution). And these are only the ones that are reported: almost everyone I know has suffered a harassing call of some kind or another.



Office, we are just the carriers... but as a social service we have some obligation to help. The spokesman, courteous in the extreme, would not explain exactly what facilities were available for blocking and tracing "for security reasons". Instead BT recommends that subscribers report their problem to the local customer services manager. When asked whether he is on duty 24 hours a day, their answer is "Well, no".

nothing better than an exchange of insults. Do not give the caller the satisfaction: simply hang up."

Telephone marketing, or "junk selling" as it is called in the United States, is nothing like as sinister as the obscene call, and nothing like as prevalent. In a recent survey by the Department of Fair Trading, it was discovered that out of a cross-section of 1,500 telephone owners, only 21 per cent had ever received such calls.

Although the telephone salesman may be insidious or forceful, he can only be categorized as an irritation rather than a threat. He is trying to get at your money rather than at you, and judging by some of his methods (like shouting "Sale! Sale! Sale!" at the relevant moment), he will "burn himself out" within a matter of months. Most of his calls are business to business, and thus do not intrude into the home.

In my own bid for freedom, I decided to get a "power chair".

These are not supplied by any outside agency, but I knew I could buy one on hire-purchase by using my precious social security mobility allowance through a scheme called Motability. I chose a mid-range model that is basically a box. In it I proceed along the pavement at up to 15mph, very bumpily and with no weather protection. If I feel brave enough I will take on a kerb up to 5in high using my "kerb-climbers", and I must be even braver to reverse over a similar kerb, especially on to a busy road. I have no lights, horn or even anything to carry shopping.

Indoors, the walls of my hall bear witness to the lack of controllability caused by front castor wheels. And, when at last I have manoeuvred my chair into the correct position for recharging, I have to grope, almost at floor level with two complicated seven-pin plugs. What will I end up paying for my power chair? No less than £1,500 (plus £20 for insurance!) I also inquired about a foam seat-cushion, but they cost £85 so I am making do with a "non-aids" one!

Good resolutions for Christmas. Eat the fruit before it shrivels. Crack the nuts before they rattle in their shells, and do something with the stem ginger before it cements itself stickily to a shelf.

Make the most of goodies. Peel the fruit carefully without breaking the skin of each segment. Remove any pith and arrange the segments on a wire drying-rack with a little space between each piece. Leave in a warm, airy place for an hour or so - allowing the fruit to dry a little helps the caramel to stick to it.

THE TIMES COOK. 55g (2oz) butter, 55g (2oz) demerara sugar, 55g (2oz) stem ginger, chopped, 1 teaspoon ground coriander. Put the apples in an oven-proof dish. Mix the sugar and ground coriander and sprinkle the mixture over the fruit.

Anyone who's too mean to serve Smirnoff will realise just how wasteful fairy lights are. Choose a deep-sided, 20cm (8in) diameter cake tin with a loose bottom, and butter it well. If the tin has a fixed base, line it with baking parchment or greaseproof paper.

SMIRNOFF. IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF. Tomorrow Spectrum: Profile of Roald Dahl. Super Market.

THE TIMES DIARY

Burning ambition

In April, at Wimbledon magistrates court, Dr Brian Davies was fined £1,000 with £200 costs for illegally receiving social security benefits amounting to £11,470.48.

Action makes the heart grow stronger

denied his "day in court", he will burn down one of the department's buildings. In February, the same Dr Davies threatened to burn down five branches of the Midland Bank but was found not guilty under the terms of the Criminal Damage Act.

Crystal clear

What used to be the London Council on Alcoholism yesterday took on a name rather harder to swallow: the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, which can be neatly abbreviated to GLAAS.

Weighting game

Revelations about the earnings powers of video-tape editors at London Weekend Television reminds me of a joke told by Granada's Gus Macdonald at this year's Edinburgh International Television Festival: What's the difference between an Arab oil sheik and a videotape editor at LWT?

False witness

Last week's QED programme on BBC1 showed a specially staged mugging scene which lasted 14 seconds. Viewers then saw an identity parade of nine men and were asked to telephone the programme to say whether they recognized the mugger.



"Your jokes are great, but you'll have to improve your handicap"

Corps Domestique

Gin slings and ironed newspapers brought out to the verandah by silently gliding houseboys are no part of today's diplomatic life. Foreign office memorandum on diplomats' accommodation states: "At most posts nowadays the cost of extra servants is the biggest item, so we must be able to extract full value when we have to pay them."

Bible thumping

The Authorized Version of the Bible, otherwise known as the King James Version, is being promoted for the first time by its four publishers, the Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Collins and Eyre and Spottiswoode. The purpose of next year's £12,000 campaign is to bring "this most poetic version of the Bible to the attention of the public," says Alec Watson of Collins.

Your turn to back off, Mr King

by John Lyons

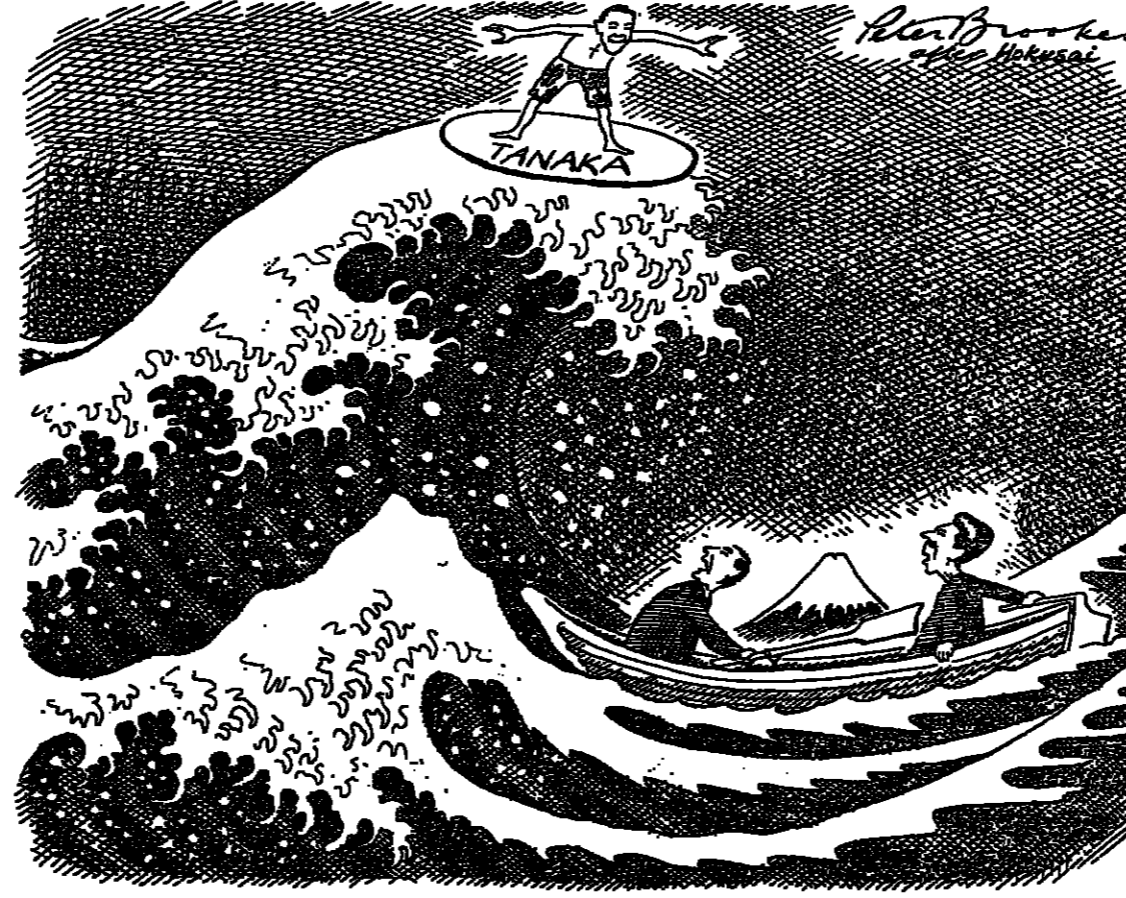
The General Council's decision last week in refusing to commit the trade union movement to support unions openly defying the law was a turning point for the TUC. There never has been any doubt that the overwhelming majority of those affiliated to the TUC would not support actions designed to undermine the supremacy of Parliament and the law.

David Watts on the election blow to Japanese-western relations

market to greater imports of American beef and citrus fruit. More importantly, he intended to shake up the Japanese capital markets and internationalize the yen to help reduce the disparity between the yen and the dollar, which the US feels is contributing heavily to the trade imbalance between the two countries.

The bribe that swamped Ron and Yasu

Singapore Only five weeks after President Reagan's visit to Tokyo, hopes of a closer relationship between Japan and the West have been damaged, perhaps irreparably for the foreseeable future, by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's setback at the polls.



glacial progress towards the liberalization of Japanese markets will become even slower. If Mr Nakasone had made an issue of greater defence spending he might have won a good measure of public support. One of his advisers thinks he might even have got public support for allowing the British carrier Invincible into a Japanese port after it was barred from Australia.

After Harrods, a ray of light from Dublin

While British television viewers looked in horror at the human devastation caused by the IRA bomb outside Harrods and listened to the ensuing condemnation from all quarters, seasoned observers of political reaction in Britain noticed one remarkable difference from previous incidents of this kind.

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Phillip Whitehead

Reuters: taking too much on trust?

Christmas will be late this year for a select group of lucky newspaper proprietors. They will have to wait a little longer for the public flotation of Reuters, from which some of them expect to make vast windfall profits. The problem with this present is the wrapping, for it was designed to stop Reuters ever becoming anyone's bran tub.

David Walker

The politicians who just don't rate

Pity the fate of junior minister William Waldegrave. He began 1983 at the Department of Education debating the future of universities and colleges, mingling with folk in gowns who spoke his All Souls' language. He ends it newly dragged from the sea of radioactive waste at Sellafield (one of his responsibilities at Environment) and put in charge of selling the rate-capping bill not only to reluctant councillors but to a Parliament which even on the whips' optimistic arithmetic is astonishingly restive, and to a public which remains, as usual at the mention of municipal matters, largely indifferent.

PARI... FROM... PERI... What in El Salvador... Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald... Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald... Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald...

THE TIMES FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Prudential sets up 'own' London broker

Prudential-Bache Securities, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, world's biggest insurance company, is setting up its 'own' London Stock Exchange member firm...

its own businesses rather than bought into existing companies. "We could not wait for the rules to change to allow us a majority holding. We have hired professional expertise, at least we believe so, to build a new company brick-by-brick..."

Lloyds spends £23m to lift stake in Royal Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank has spent £23m on increasing its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland Group from 16.4 per cent to 21.3 per cent, but denied any plans to make a bid...



Sir Jeremy Morse (left) and Mr Sidney Procter: no talks on Lloyds & Scottish

Standard Chartered in 1981, Mr Pitman was adamant that a bid was not on the cards, although he did not rule out the possibility of buying more shares...

executive of Royal Bank, said yesterday there were no talks going on about Lloyds & Scottish with Lloyds Bank. "They have always wanted Lloyds & Scottish. We have made no secret of the fact that if we could agree on a price we would sell," he said...

Index close to 770

The equity market continued to scale fresh heights yesterday, with investors' demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT 30-share index closed at its high for the day, 777 up at a record 769.8.

SE names lay members

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Stock Exchange yesterday announced the names of the first five lay members in its history. The five outsiders - two industrialists, a merchant banker, an academic and a pension fund manager - have been appointed as part of the wide-ranging package of reforms agreed with the Government...

The lay members will also make up the Stock Exchange's membership appeal committee. Mr Hull, a former director general of the Takeover Panel, said last night that the lay members included a number of big users of the stock market.

Japanese joint deal for Oxford Instruments

By Andrew Cornelius

Oxford Instruments, which makes a super magnet forming the core of body scanner technology, yesterday announced a joint venture to make its magnets in Japan. It is to set up a manufacturing company with Furukawa Electric in Japan, and Far East sales of about £300m are expected in the next decade.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table listing stock exchange data for FT Index, Dow Jones, Nikkei, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table listing currency rates for Sterling, Dollar, ECU, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table listing interest rates for domestic rates, Euro-currency rates, US rates, etc.

GOLD

Table listing gold prices for London fixed, New York latest, etc.

Dog-days lose their bite

The stock market was predicting as much a year ago and official statistics are now proving the point: company profits are recovering sharply from the dogdays of the recession. The Bank's Quarterly Bulletin records that profits rose by nearly 50 per cent between the first halves of 1981 (the pit of the recession) and 1983.

cent fall does not leave the sector where it started five years ago. It is still well short of the starting line. Companies have been benefiting from the rise in output while big gains in productivity mainly due to shedding people, have helped to keep down unit labour costs.

Courtaulds plans paint buy-out

By Jeremy Warner

Courtaulds is planning to buy out the publicly held minority shareholding in its 88 per cent owned subsidiary, International Paint, the big industrial paints and coverings group, in a deal worth £14.5m.

Rolls agrees £20m diesel sell-off

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The £20m cash deal for the sale of the diesel engine business of the Rolls-Royce car company to Massey-Ferguson, the troubled tractor group, was confirmed yesterday.

Posgate decision soon

By Our Financial Staff

A decision will be taken in the next few weeks over whether to bring charges against Mr Ian Posgate and four former directors of the Alexander Howden insurance group after an investigation by the Lloyd's of London authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7.5m rights issue by Carlton

Carlton Communications, one of Britain's leading independent television production companies, yesterday announced a one-for-five rights issue to raise £7.5m net at 30p a share.

Sarasin rescue 'should go to Dunlop board'

By Wayne Listoff

Samuel Montagu, merchant bank advisers to Pegi Malaysia Berhad, the group that holds just under 7 per cent of Dunlop, said yesterday that the rescue proposals from Sarasin International Securities for Dunlop should, in the first instance, be made to the board of Dunlop.

Pattern of foreign investment in Britain is changing

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A relatively recent phenomenon, the report finds difficulty in predicting the form it will take, even if a substantial flow towards Europe begins.

Hambros halves Australian stake

By Our Financial Staff

Hambros Bank has completed the sale of 50 per cent of its Australian subsidiary, Hambro Australia, in accordance with the assurances it gave the Australian Government five years ago when it set up the company.

S. Simpson plc

Advertisement for S. Simpson plc, including Principal Group Activities, Results in brief, and contact information.

Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were slightly higher in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial average up 1.5 points at 1,246.

Senior partners of Conrad Riblat, the big commercial estate company, are in negotiations to buy out the major part of the 50 per cent shareholding owned by British Land and a deal could be struck by March.

EEC multinationals look overseas

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been warned in a new study of multinational investment strategies that it would be unjustified to devote substantial resources towards attracting European investment into Britain over the next decade.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Surprise payout fails to lift British Land shares

Mr John Ritblat's British Land property and industrial group, has an interim dividend. It is a significant event for the company because it is the first half-year payout that British Land shareholders have received in more than a decade.

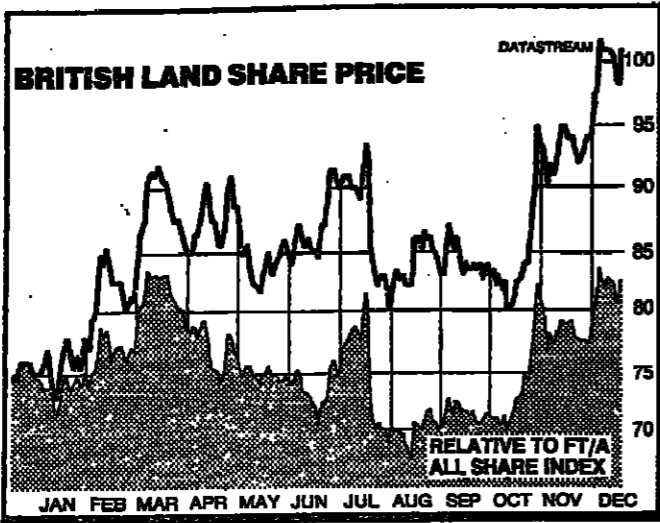
Assuming a same again final of 1.25p is paid, the interim of 0.5p implies a 40 per cent rise in the full year payout. But British Landshare price failed to respond to this news yesterday and closed unchanged at 101p and the stock market remains as uncertain as ever about the direction the company is taking.

Half year pretax profits were up 6 per cent from £3.4m to £3.6m after a rise before interest of 16 per cent. The company has been spending heavily so the sharp rise in bank borrowing costs is not surprising.

In the United States, Growth Realty, which has now changed its name to British Land of America, made a net gain in the quarter year to the end of September after the reorganization started in August 1982 when British Land acquired a minority interest in the company. British Land has also spent heavily on improving the length of leaseholds on its properties.

Profits from the industrial division were a little better at about £1.1m during the half year and gross rental income was up £1m at £10.1m.

The profit from property and dealing in securities was roughly the same overall, with the fall in returns from trading offset by



better housebuilding and property trading profits. The group continues to rely heavily on these dealing profits as a source of revenue. Last year they accounted for about 42 per cent of group pretax profits and are likely to be only a little lower this time.

The exposure to dealing revenue is just one of the worrying features at British Land. Another is the apparent lack of direction at the group.

The company has recently entered ventures as hotel building with Comfort Hotels, a new unit trusts group with Mr Brian Banks, partly funding a Finsbury Square development and taking a 15 per cent stake in Dares Estates.

Until some strategy is put forward to explain these and other moves, the shares will continue to look vulnerable, despite trading at a discount to net assets of 39 per cent, which is well above the sector average.

Stenhouse Shareholders of Stenhouse Holdings have until tomorrow afternoon to decide on the merits of one of the City's most peculiar takeover attempts for many years.

The £53m bid for Stenhouse by Reed Stenhouse its 49 per cent-owned Canadian subsidiary, has been an embarrassment to the boards of both companies, particularly for those with seats in both boards.

Both companies agree that a merger is the only sensible answer to the problems posed by the peculiar relationship between the two, but they

cannot agree on sensible terms. Stenhouse Holdings has, for many years, been little more than a small investment manager, a Manchester property company. Price: 4.54 million new ordinary shares. Grade-land's net assets of £727,000 at March 31. After takeover and proposed rights issue, sellers of Grade-land will hold 40.2 per cent of Sheafbank's enlarged ordinary capital. Sheafbank proposes to reduce its issued capital from £1.2m, divided into 25p shares, to £482,000 in 10p shares. Board is conditionally proposing a rights issue of two new ordinary shares for every five shares held at 19p each, and will raise about £308,000 before expenses.

Baileys of Yorkshire Half-year to October 29, 1983, compared with half-year to September 30, 1982. Figures in £000s. Group turnover 77,306 (60,568). Group profit 529 (519) after all charges, interest 71 (15), depreciation 176 (151) and tax 77 (140). EPS - basic 6.19p (6.07p) and fully diluted 4.38p (4.3p). Interim dividend unchanged at 0.5p.

Memory Computer: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000s. Turnover 4,835 (3,541). Pretax profit 510 (340). Interim payment 1p net (nil last time).

Scotts Restaurant Half-year to June 30, 1983. Turnover £1.56m (£1.37m). Pretax profit £115,000 (£76,000).

Real Time Control Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. No interim payment. Directors intend to recommend a net dividend of 2p for full year. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,754 (1,363). Pretax profit 415 (407).

Belgrave (Blackheath) Half-year to July 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 1,317 (1,567). Profit before tax 18 (loss 48).

Alliance Investment Half-year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000s. Franked income 452 (396). Unfranked income 523 (456). Management expenses and interest 563 (272). Pretax profit 412 (580). Interim payment effectively unchanged at 0.5p a share.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Cifer, the Melksham, Wiltshire, designer and manufacturer of microcomputers and computer terminals, which joined the USM in June, reports pretax profits of £1,352m for the year to September 30, 1983 (1982: £851,000). At the time of issuing its prospectus, Cifer forecast profit before tax would not be less than £1.35m. As declared in the prospectus, the company does not intend recommending a dividend, but still expects to pay one for the current year.

Sheafbank Property Trust has agreed to buy Grade-land Securities, a Manchester property company. Price: 4.54 million new ordinary shares. Grade-land's net assets of £727,000 at March 31. After takeover and proposed rights issue, sellers of Grade-land will hold 40.2 per cent of Sheafbank's enlarged ordinary capital. Sheafbank proposes to reduce its issued capital from £1.2m, divided into 25p shares, to £482,000 in 10p shares. Board is conditionally proposing a rights issue of two new ordinary shares for every five shares held at 19p each, and will raise about £308,000 before expenses.

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Old foggism is not a fashionable basis for the conduct of economic policy. It may be defined as the selection of policy rules because they appear to basic moral intuitions, not because they have intellectual plausibility. Other "isms", like monetarism and Keynesianism, may be very much in contention, but old foggism is definitely out.

The late 1950s was perhaps the last time that American policy was determined by old foggism principles. Whatever else has been said of it, one has suggested that President Eisenhower was intellectually sophisticated. He chose policies not just because smart-alec advisers had persuaded him that they were clever, but also because they seemed honest and right.

His attitude towards fiscal policy illustrates the point effectively. At a news conference on March 4, 1959, this is how he answered a question on why he attached so much importance to eliminating the budget deficit:

"Well, remember, balancing the budget is not of interest merely to ourselves. Our friends, the nations with whom we trade, the nations that are increasingly using the dollar as a medium of exchange, they are interested in the knowledge that

we can pay our bills. Now, as quickly as we can get back to a pay-as-you-go basis, the freer the world will feel about this whole affair."

This is not a model of economic reasoning. President Eisenhower was clearly ignorant about the subtle potentialities of later doctrines, whether supply-side, neo-Keynesian or more forthrightly quackish. He liked pay-as-you-go because it conformed to notions of elementary decency, not least decency to America's friends.

In the late 1950s university macroeconomics courses were dominated by ideas such as fiscal fine-tuning and "functional finance", which involved the systematic variation of budget deficits to counter the business cycle. If an economist had given a lecture with a justification of balanced budgets as naive as the President's, his professional colleagues

Economics Commentary by Tim Congdon

Triumph of the old foggies

The USA's trade and current account position, 1975-82

Table with columns: Merchandise trade balance, Invisibles balance, of which investment income, Current account. Rows: 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982.

Source: US Department of Commerce

would have greeted it with derision. President Eisenhower today increasingly wise and fiscal fine-tuning, with its many derivatives, increasingly silly.

High-powered economic theoreticians are now trying to develop analytically rigorous demonstrations that deficits have very unfavourable long-run effects on the economy. Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers, has produced some of his original work in this area.

But President Reagan is not interested. A budget deficit of more than \$170 billion is in prospect for the 1984 fiscal year, with perhaps bigger numbers in later years. Despite this, he has made no promises about restoring budgetary equilibrium. Indeed, he has given few signs that he considers the deficit a serious problem.

His indifference is not altogether surprising. When a country runs a large budget deficit it also normally has a large balance-of-payments deficit. The payments deficit then causes currency depreciation and higher inflation.

The President's budget deficit has been associated, in the conventional logic, with a serious deterioration in the American balance of payment. But it has also coincided with a phase of remarkable dollar strength on the foreign exchanges. The dollar's behaviour has been helpful for the control of American inflation rather than the reverse.

The dollar's strength is generally regarded as a puzzle, but there is agreement that heavy capital inflows to the US, have been an essential support. Investment money is being channelled towards the US, financing the current account deficit and enabling the American people to enjoy an armaments boom, an import boom and a consumption boom without paying the bill.

deviant and the current account deficit has reached such proportions that foreigners are accumulating many more assets in the United States than Americans are accumulating abroad.

The foreigners expect an income on their investments. If the current account deficit continues, the United States will eventually become a net debtor to other countries.

By then the transparency of President Reagan's fiscal programme will be obvious to all. The capital flows in the dollar-denominated assets have been largely motivated by the common perception of the United States as a safe haven in a troubled world. But, if it were to become a significant net debtor, perceptions would change.

The American government would be in an awkward spot. Once the capital inflows stopped, the budget deficit would have to be financed wholly from internal sources instead of to a large extent from abroad. It is difficult to see how, in view of the inadequacy of domestic savings flows, this could be done without magnification of debt - and so return to rapid inflation.

When President Eisenhower wrote his memoirs in 1965 he felt he should respond to complaints that his fiscal policy

had been too restrictive. In his view, "critics overlooked the inflationary psychology which prevailed during the mid-fifties and which I thought it necessary to defeat. In 1957, for example, consumer prices rose at an unacceptably high annual rate of 3.2 per cent. Ten years of this could devalue the dollar more than 30 per cent while the rate accelerated, we would have had an entirely intolerable situation on our hands."

He continued: "The anti-inflation battle is never-ending, though I fear that in 1959 the public was apathetic, at least uninformed, regarding this issue. This attitude caused me to recall a laconic comment of Winston Churchill when someone asked him during World War Two what the allies were fighting for: 'If we stop,' he replied, 'you will find out.'"

The author is economics partner at stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

Base Lending Rates table listing various banks and their rates for different types of deposits and loans.

Stenhouse Shareholders of Stenhouse Holdings have until tomorrow afternoon to decide on the merits of one of the City's most peculiar takeover attempts for many years.

Table of authorized units and insurance funds, listing various investment funds and their details.

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Large table containing financial data, likely a continuation of the authorized units and insurance funds table.

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Virani sells Norfolk stake

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

Hopes that the Virani Group, the privately owned hotel and property company, was planning to use the Norfolk Capital Group, chaired by Lady Joseph the widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, as the back door for a full public quote have been dashed. Yesterday it was announced that Virani had sold its entire stake, amounting to 10.5 per cent of the equity, through Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Broker Williams de Broe placed the 1.39 million shares for an undisclosed sum less than a month after Mr Nazam Virani the Ugandan Asian owner, emerged as a major shareholder in Norfolk. It now looks as though Mr Virani is focusing his interest on Mr Eric Morley's Beheaven Brewery in which he has bought a 24 per cent stake. Virani recently paid £4.6m for 21 British Rail hotels and secured an ideal match for Norfolk which owns a further 10 hotels, including the Royal Court in Sloane Square and the Norfolk Hotel in Kensington. Last night, shares of Norfolk in which Lady Joseph owns

about 6 million shares, or 31 per cent of the total, closed unchanged at 39p. The rest of the equity market maintained its record breaking. There is a growing belief among the institutions that Mr Paul Marks, chairman of nearly 6 per cent of the shares, said: "If we are to be bid for, nobody has told me." run with renewed demand for blue chips showing few signs of being satisfied. The FT index closed 7.7 up at a new high of 769.8. Cadbury Schweppes climbed 8p to 177p still reflecting a bullish circular on food manufacturers from brokerickers

Costa. There were also vague rumours that Distillers, 6p higher at 227p, was casting an appreciative eye over Tate & Lyle, 8p dearer at 373p. Only last week a line of 2.75 million shares in Tate & Lyle, believed to be owned by Hanson Trust, were placed in the market with an unnamed buyer. One of the biggest gains among the top 30 was in TI Group, 6p higher at 170p still as chairman of the company, Mr Ronald Unger, said in a statement: "This will come as good news for broker Laing & Cruickshank, which has been a buyer of the shares since September. According to Laing, there is still a 'lot of recovery potential' left in the shares. For the current year the analysts are looking for pre tax profits of between £10m and £20m followed by £10m to £35m next year after building up bigger market shares for its

engineering and domestic products. Oil shares were again weak after fears that world oil prices could soon be set to fall. This follows the decision of two big US refiners to cut the price they are prepared to pay for domestic crude oil by £1.50 a barrel. It will come as little relief to the jobbers, who were forced to widen the spread between the bid and offer price of the five leading oil shares this week resulting in bigger costs for investors. BP lost 5p at 388p, British 5p at 181p, Shell 10p at 548p and Ultramar 7p at 597p. Burnham was the only big producer to resist the pressure, climbing another 5p to 175p on bid speculation. A rise of 5 points in sterling against the dollar to £1.4190 on the foreign exchange continued to breathe new life into gilts. Dealers reported rises of up to 2 1/2% in long while at the shorter end the gains were limited to 1 1/2% where changed. The Christmas spending spree in the shops was good news for the big retailers who stock shortages added 5p to Comet Group at 313p, 2p to Great Universal Stores 'A' at 620p, 4p to H. Samuel at 133p. News that Lloyds Bank, unchanged at 542p, had increased its stake in Royal Bank of Scotland, up 28p at 202p, to 21 per cent helped the rest of the banking sector to small improvements. Barclays rose 5p to 492p, Midland 5p to 389p and National Westminster 5p to 649p.

Happy Christmas from TAYLOR WOODROW

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Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, Gross, Div % P/E. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS and SHORTS.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, Gross, Div % P/E. Includes sections for A-G and H-K.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, Gross, Div % P/E. Includes sections for L-R and S-Z.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, Gross, Div % P/E. Includes sections for A-G and H-K.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table with columns: Market rates, Forward rates, Effective exchange rate compared to 1975.

Money Market Rates

Table with columns: Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, Local Authority Bonds.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table with columns: Ireland, Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland.

Euro-Deposits

Table with columns: 1 week, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Other Markets

Table with columns: Australia, Finland, Hongkong, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, Div, Yield, Gross, Div % P/E. Includes sections for MEDIUMS and LONGS.

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Hill-Wood is holding on despite the draught at the top of the tree

The chairman sticks to his Gunners

Peter Hill-Wood, Arsenal's chairman, yesterday repudiated a rumour that he would be leaving the club in the wake of his manager, Terry Neill, whom he sacked last Friday.



Hill-Wood: no crisis

die in the job, as my grandfather and father did, even though I have great loyalty to the tradition they set and I certainly do not intend to stand down at present.

RUGBY UNION



Hoping to shake off injuries in 1984: Wheeler, Melville and Carleton, optimistic of an early return to the first team.

Carleton returns to prove fitness to England selectors

John Carleton, the England right wing who has not played since being injured against New Zealand on November 19, returns to action on Friday.

European match will produce one winner and two losers

Split Yugoslavia (Agencies) - The fate of three nations hangs in the balance when Yugoslavia meet Bulgaria in a European Championship qualifying match here today.

Another European cup for Aberdeen

Aberdeen... Hamburg... Second half goals by Simpson and McGhee gave Aberdeen the European Super Cup at Pittodrie last night.

Swansea fail to tempt Appleton from Hull

Colin Appleton, the Hull City manager, has turned down an offer to take over at Swansea City which would have nearly doubled his salary.

Brazilians' World Cup is stolen

Rio de Janeiro, Renter - The Jules Rimet Cup was stolen from the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Association on Monday night.

Favourites unchanged The school that fulfilled its half-term promise

The South of Scotland have announced an unchanged team for the match against Glasgow at Hawick on Saturday which will curiously keep the fifth tier championship.

Tennis climbs the league

One of the fringe benefits of open tennis and the game's consequent expansion as a segment of the world-wide entertainment business is that distinguished writers have been attracted to the circuit in numbers that, years ago, would have been unthinkable.

Keegan back at Anfield before the big screen

Kevin Keegan's return to Anfield will be shown live on television. The Professional Footballers Association and the FA have reached agreement on the cash now which is to be used to back the third round FA Cup tie between Liverpool and Newcastle United.

Hartlepool are given a deadline

Hartlepool United have been given a month by Hartlepool Council to pay rent arrears of more than £7,000 for their Victoria Ground.

Kelly praises League's progress

Football will still be Britain's major spectator sport when the League celebrates its centenary in 1988.

BOOK REVIEWS

Tennis climbs the league... One of the fringe benefits of open tennis and the game's consequent expansion as a segment of the world-wide entertainment business is that distinguished writers have been attracted to the circuit in numbers that, years ago, would have been unthinkable.

BOXING

A rest then a recall for Douglas... England will be without middleweight Rod Douglas for their amateur international match against Ireland at Milton Keynes on January 5.

Daring Skelton triumphs

Nick Skelton gave the packed hall at the Olympia International Show, leaving championship the most exciting finish of the meeting when, with a daring final round against the clock, he claimed the £4,100 first prize in the Radio Rentals Grand Prix for the Olympia Trophy on Monday night.

FISHING

An angler's tangled life... That eminent sporting journal, The Field, has warned us that we are likely to have a record sea trout on our books fairly soon.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for American Football, West, Ice Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Cricket, and Boxing, listing various events and results.

SKIING

Stenmark's Cup ambition lifted by another victory

Madonna di Campiglio, (Reuter) - The triple World cup winner Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden returned to the scene of his first World Cup win 1974 to score a clear victory in the slalom race here yesterday...

Zoller, high number starter confirmed his return to fitness after a ligament injury last season by holding on to his place despite almost running into a gate near the bottom of the course...

combination with his win in the Val Gardena super giant slalom on Monday. The young Swiss, clearly feeling the pressure to produce a good result, skied off in the first leg while trying too hard to make up time lost in the early stages...



Stenmark: fastest man on two legs

Haus, Austria, (AFP) - The women's World Cup downhill race which was in doubt because of adverse weather conditions, will go ahead today at planned. Mild weather and rain had earlier threatened a change in the programme for both today and Thursday...

Toronto (Reuter) - The Canadian skiers have returned home for their Christmas break from early season races in Europe confident they can win the World Cup downhill title. Todd Brooker leads the standings after twice finishing runner-up in the early races and he said: "I am having a lot more fun. I've also eased off a little in training to save a little for race days..."

Table with 2 columns: Football fixtures and Skiing conditions. Includes league names like European Championship, Premier League, and various ski resort details like depth, piste, and weather.

Table with 2 columns: Motor racing results and Lingfield selections. Lists race names like Christmas Cracker Hurdle and names of horses and jockeys.

The 1984 Lotus has a leaner look. By John Blunsden. year looks superficially similar to the 94T's they used in the latter part of this year. However, they are very different beneath the skin...

In search of heat and dust. Malcolm and Sarah Cooper, the husband and wife international shooting team, will set out on Friday on a 26,000 mile round trip in search of a combination of intense heat, dust and wind...



Target: The Los Angeles Games

Burrough Hill Lad can underline his Chepstow chance

By Michael Phillips. Today's meeting at Lingfield Park was given the go-ahead yesterday after the stewards had inspected the course midway through the afternoon. However, they added the proviso that it would only take place if there was no heavy rain during the night...

Burrough Hill Lad's only race this season was over hurdles at Nottingham earlier this month and the Puma is understood to have been keen for him to jump fences at racing pace again before his important date at Chepstow...

Lingfield Park. GOING: chase course, soft, hurdles, heavy. Total double: 1.30, 2.30. Treble: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0. 12.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £1,095: 2m) (21 runners)...

Sangster race approved. The Irish Turf Club approved a plan by a syndicate led by Robert Sangster to sponsor a £250,000 race at Phoenix Park next July. After a meeting attended by Vincent O'Brien, the trainer, and John Magnier, the syndicate owner...

Worcester. GOING: Soft. 12.15 CHRISTMAS CHASE (Div 1: novices: £1,214: 3m) (13 runners)...

Folkstone results. GOING: chase course, soft, hurdles, heavy. 12.45 ALDINGTON CHASE (Div 1: novices: £900: 2m)...

Ludlow results. Brown Rifle, W Knox (12-1) 2. Enigma, W Knox (12-1) 3. 12.30 BURGUNDY CHASE (Div 1: novices: £240: 2m)...



Here's mud in your eye: apprentice Andrew Small depicts racing's less glamorous side after pulling up in the Folkestone seller (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

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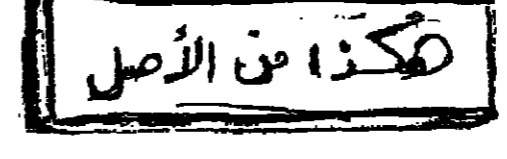
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Worcester selections. By Michael Phillips. 12.15 Trust the King, 12.45 Hazy Sunset, 1.15 Speedy Bee, 1.45 Generous Bud, 3.15 Bramblings.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Oxford' and other illegible characters.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear



BBC 1
6.25 Good Morning Britain
Presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton...

BBC 2
4.15 Film: Every Girl Should Be Married (1948) starring Cary Grant, Betty Hutton and Franchot Tone...



Plácido Domingo and Mirella Freni in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's film, Madame Butterfly: Channel 4 9.00pm.

CHOICE
Tonight's last programme in the present Q.E.D. series is a follow-up programme to the ending of last week's edition...

CHANNEL 4
5.00 Film: 'The General' (1925) Starring Buster Keaton as Johnnie Gray, an engine driver on the Western and Atlanta Railroad...

Radio 4
6.00 News Briefing
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30 News...

Radio 3
6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Your Midweek Choice: part one. Schubert (Adagio) and Rondo Concertante, Op 47...

Radio 2
News on the hour (except 8.00 pm and 9.00 pm) major bulletins 7.00 am, 8.00, 1.00 pm, 5.00 and 12.00 pm...

WORLD SERVICE
6.00am Newsweek, 7.00 World News, 7.30 Twenty-Four Hours, 7.30 Kings of Jazz 7.45 Report on Religion, 8.00 World News...

Regional Television Variations
HTV WEST As London except: 1.20pm-1.30pm News, 2.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace, 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors, 5.15-5.45 Christmas Carol, 6.00-6.30 News...

Entertainments
The born leader
COURVOISIER
A large advertisement for Courvoisier cognac featuring a bottle image and promotional text.

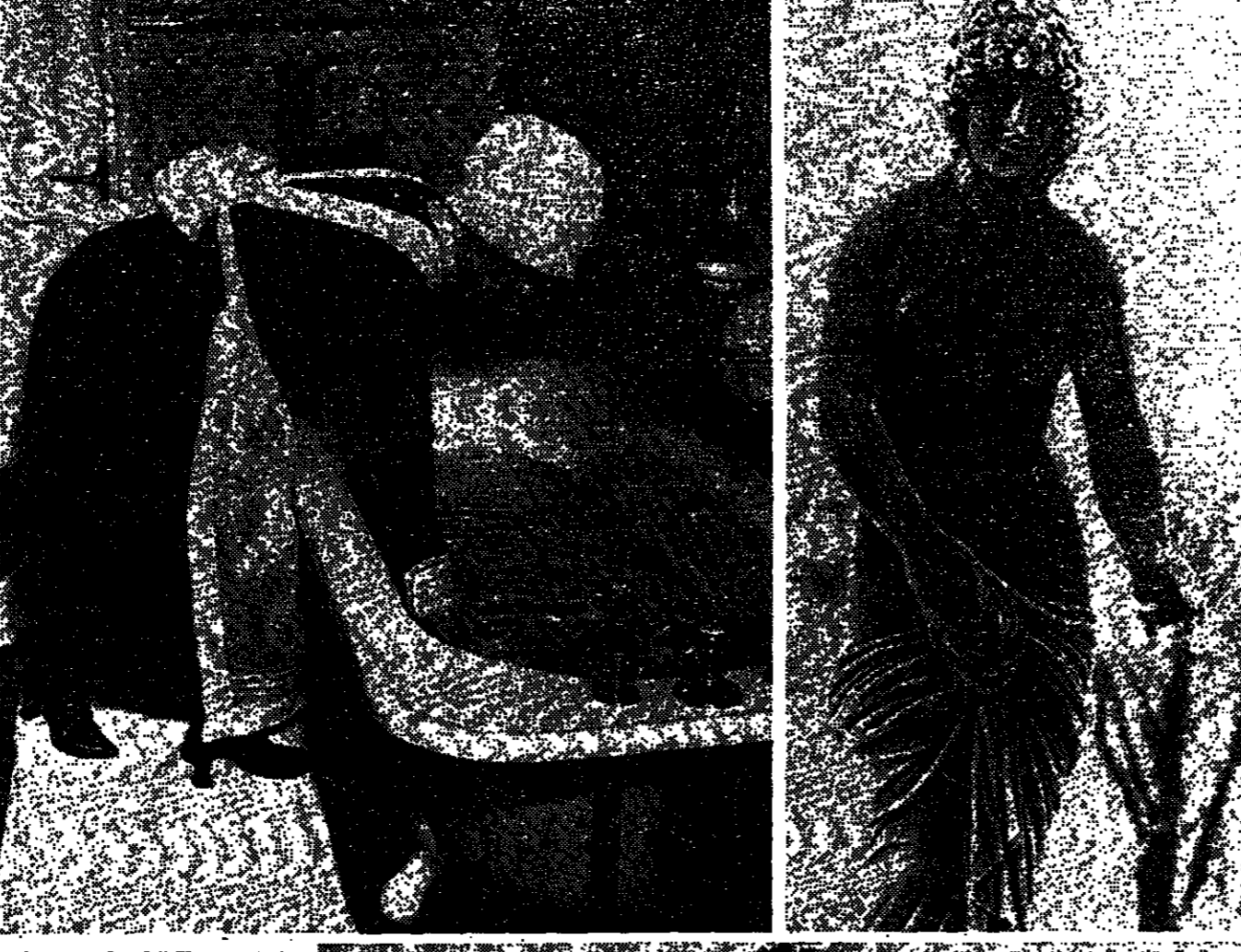
Rate Bill faces big test in Lords

Continued from page 1 Councils, which represents many such authorities, said that the Bill "threatens even greater interference in the affairs and activities of local authorities than was originally feared."

Israeli aircraft watch Arafat armada sail out

Continued from page 1 loyalists before their evacuation (Christopher Walker writes). It claimed that, despite US pressure, no formal guarantees of safe passage had been given to either Greece or France.

Photographer of rare imagination



The death of Bill Brandt in London at the age of 79 has robbed the world of the acknowledged master of twentieth century British photography.



Police trace dealer who sold bomb car

Continued from page 1 demonstrations in the East End of London and in Trafalgar Square, drawing police strength at a time when officers were needed elsewhere.

Frank Johnson in the Commons Determined mood by the Welsh

The chief Opposition spokesman on Wales yesterday produced a late, but surely unbeatatable entreat for less worrying accusations by a politician in 1983: "This is a black day for local government in Wales."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events Royal engagements Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Annual Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, 6.55pm.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,315 ACROSS 1 They take off and stop raids somehow (9).

DOWN 1 Turn up to help with work, showing where speakers stand (5).

Christmas exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints and ceramics, Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath, Tues to Sat 11-5, closed Sun and Mon.

Anniversaries Births: Leopold von Ranke, author of the History of the Papacy and considered as the father of modern history, Weimar, Germany, 1795.

Christmas cash Outside dispensing machines will be open at most banks which have the facility over the Christmas and New Year periods.

Fire warning The Home Office fire statistics for 1982, just published, have a cautionary note for this home-bound festive season.

Exhibitions in progress Ben Nicholson: The Years of Experiment 1919-1939. City Museum & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sunday (ends Jan 8).

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First novels of year The Literary Editor's selection of first novels of the year: Aisha, by Abdul Souleil (Cape, £7.50).

Roads London and South-east: A249: Auto signals on Maidstone/Sittingbourne road, from M2 bridge to Sittingbourne carriageway.

The papers The Washington Post says that it is worth "springing" Yasser Arafat, even this second time in an attempt to end what it calls the "cruel end game" of Lebanon.

The pound Bank Bank Bank Australia \$ 1.66 1.56 America \$ 22.92 27.25 Belgium F 83.75 78.75

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Housing and Building Control Bill, remaining stages.

Law courts The Michaelmas sittings at the Royal Courts of Justice end today.

Weather A complex depression over Northern Ireland will move north-eastwards.

High tides TODAY London Bridge 2.16 7.1 1.29 Avonmouth 1.41 7.1 1.29

Around Britain Scarborough Sun rise: 8.04am. Moon sets: 5.15pm. 9.39am.

Highest and lowest Yesterday: Highest: 14.9°C; Lowest: 4.2°C.

London Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8°C (46°F).

Abroad Moscow C 10.4 F 50.9 London C 10.4 F 50.9

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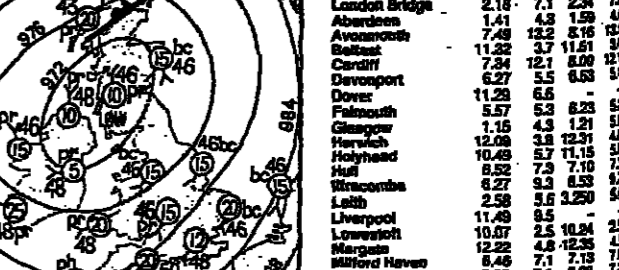
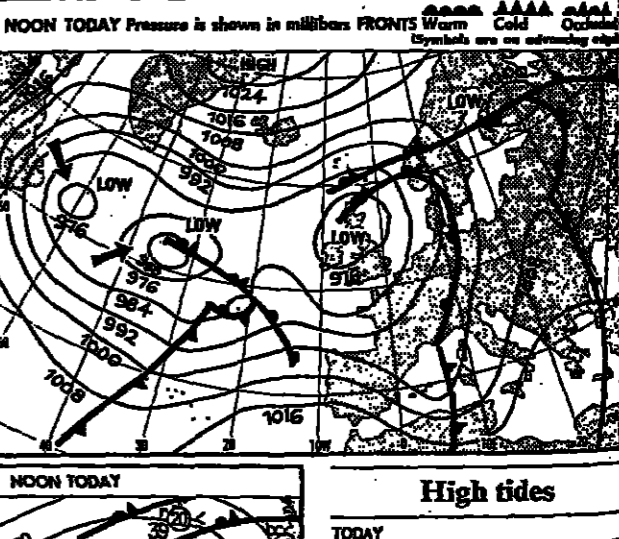


Table with columns for location, sun rise, moon sets, and other weather-related data for various British locations.

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